

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0842

LIMDIS

FOR OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT/CAPT. HOWE AND EUR/CE

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON A.)

SUBJ: DRAFT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS FOR VICE PRESIDENT
ROCKEFELLER

1. THERE FOLLOW DRAFT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS
FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT.

2. ARRIVAL STATEMENT:

DISTINGUISHED ALLIED AUTHORITIES, MR. GOVERNING MAYOR,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING AT SUCH A LATE HOUR
TO GREET MRS. ROCKEFELLER AND ME AND OUR PARTY. THE FLIGHT
HAS BEEN LONG BUT FAST, AND WE ARE HAPPY TO REACH THIS
HAVEN OF FRIENDSHIP UNDER THE FLAG OF ALLIES.

I AM ESPECIALLY DELIGHTED AT THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW
MY ACQUAINTANCE WITH YOUR CITY. I WAS LAST HERE IN
SEPTEMBER OF 1963 - NOT TOO LONG AFTER THAT SAD AUGUST
EVENT OF 1961 - AS GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK STATE. NOW,
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SO MANY YEARS LATER AND IN A DIFFERENT POLITICAL

CAPACITY, I AM MOST EAGER TO SEE THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THIS GREAT CITY AND HOW THE FREE BERLINERS HAVE RESPONDED TO THE UNIQUE SITUATION IN WHICH THEY LIVE.

OF COURSE THE FIRST CHANGE I NOTE IS THIS MODERN AND BEAUTIFUL AIRPORT AT TEGEL. AS I STEPPED FROM MY AIRCRAFT THE FRENCH GUARD OF HONOR SERVED AS INSTANT REMINDER OF THE CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG THE WESTERN ALLIES WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE POST-WAR HISTORY OF THIS CITY. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK OUR FRENCH ALLIES FOR THEIR COURTESY AND THEIR HOSPITALITY HERE TODAY, AND INDEED ALL OF YOU PARTICIPATING IN THE JOINT WELCOME.

AT A TIME WHEN THE UNITED STATES IS ENGAGED IN A SPIRITED ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND IS EMERGING FROM A DIFFICULT PERIOD OF INTERNAL DEBATE AND CONFLICT, ALL OF WHICH HAS GIVEN RISE TO SOME ANXIETIES ABROAD, BERLIN REMAINS A VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE ESSENTIAL CONTINUITY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND OF OUR FIRM COMMITMENTS. WE HAVE HELD A STEADY COURSE IN BERLIN THROUGH SEVEN POST-WAR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND THROUGH MANY CRISES, AND WILL SURELY CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE.

AS ALL OF YOU SO WELL KNOW, 1976 IS NOT ONLY AN ELECTION YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES, IT IS ALSO OUR NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT, MEDIA AND PEOPLE OF BERLIN FOR THEIR TRULY OVERWHELMING PARTICIPATION IN OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. LAST NOVEMBER'S MEMORABLE VISIT OF YOUR OPERA WAS LITERALLY A CURTAIN-RAISER TO THESE CELEBRATIONS. WE NOW LOOK FORWARD TO THE TOUR OF YOUR WORLD-FAMOUS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA; AND WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE MANY PRESS AND TELEVISION SPECIALS AND THE DEDICATION TO BICENTENNIAL THEMES OF YOUR COMING BERLIN FILM AND CULTURAL FESTIVALS. THIS GRATIFYING EVIDENCE OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND OF YOUR INTEREST IN OUR COUNTRY IS ECHOED, I ASSURE YOU, BY THE FEELINGS THAT YOUR OWN LEADERS CONSTANTLY RENEW IN THEIR VERY WELCOME VISITS TO OUR COUNTRY.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU AGAIN TOMORROW. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

3. DEPARTURE STATEMENT:

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DISTINGUISHED ALLIED AUTHORITIES, MR. GOVERNING MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MY VISIT TO BERLIN HAS BEEN ALL THAT I EXPECTED, AND MORE. MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN LONGER.

ONE SENSES IMMEDIATELY THE VITALITY OF THIS CITY AND THE COURAGE AND CALM DETERMINATION OF YOUR PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS. ABOVE ALL, I AM HEARTENED BY THE WARMTH

OF THE RECEPTION WE HAVE BEEN ACCORDED HERE BY EVERYONE WE HAVE MET.

WE MOVE ON NOW TO FRANKFURT TO JOIN YOUR COUNTRYMEN IN FESTIVE CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST 200 YEARS OF AMERICA AS A DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT, AN EXPERIMENT OFTEN BESET BY DIFFICULTIES AND FRUSTRATIONS BUT TODAY STILL VITAL AND WORKABLE. AS WE DO SO IT SEEMS MOST APPROPRIATE TO HAVE FIRST VISITED THIS CITY, SO LONG A SYMBOL OF FREE MEN'S DETERMINATION AGAINST FORMIDABLE ODDS. SURELY OUR HISTORY - AND YOURS - OVER THE PAST TWO CENTURIES HAS CONFIRMED THE BELIEFS OF OUR FOUNDERS THAT NO CHOSEN MEN AND NO IDEOLOGIES EVER INVENTED BY MORTAL MAN CAN PROVIDE ALL THE ANSWERS TO THE INFINITE VARIETY OF PROBLEMS WE SEEM CAPABLE OF CREATING FOR OURSELVES. I KNOW YOU SHARE WITH US THE CONVICTION THAT ONLY THROUGH OPEN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES CAN WE FIND STEADY HOPE AND RENEWAL; AND THAT IN ITSELF GIVES OUR CURRENT AND CONTINUING CLOSE TIES A POWERFUL BASE.

LASTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR WARMEST THANKS TO THE GOVERNING MAYOR AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BERLIN, THE PEOPLE OF BERLIN AND OUR BRITISH AND FRENCH ALLIES FOR ALL THEIR HOSPITALITY AND KINDNESS DURING THIS BRIEF VISIT. THE HIGH REGARD THAT I HAVE LONG HELD FOR THIS CITY AND ITS CITIZENS HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED AND REAFFIRMED BY WHAT I HAVE SEEN AND HEARD HERE. I SPEAK FOR ALL AMERICANS WHEN I WISH YOU ALL THE VERY BEST, AND I SPEAK FOR ALL WHO ARE LEAVING WITH ME TODAY WHEN I SAY NOT "GOODBYE" BUT "AUF WIEDERSEHEN."

THANK YOU. GEORGE

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